

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 IO-14 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /127 W

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R 201552Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3598

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 2504

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NL, PO

SUBJECT: DUTCH VIEWS ON PORTUGAL

(1) SUMMARY: IN SPECIAL STATEMENT ISSUED BY
MFA MAY 17 GON TERMED DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL
"ENCOURAGING" AND PROMISED THAT IF CURRENT DEMOCRATIZATION
TREND COUNTINUES AND OVERSEAS TERRITORIES QUESTION
SOLVED, GON WILL BE WILLING TO WORK FOR SUPPORT FOR
PORTUGAL FIRST OF ALL. END SUMMARY

2. FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF STATEMENT.

3. BEGIN TEXT: THE DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN
PORTUAGAL SINCE THE TAKE-OVER AT THE END OF APRIL ARE
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ENCOURAGING.

IN THE OPINION OF THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT THE NEW REIME HAS SHOWN SO FAR THAT IT WISHES TO BREAK THE TIES WITH THE PAST AND TO SEEK THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRATIC RELATIONS IN PORTUGAL.

OF COURSE THE DEMOCRATISATION PROCESS IS AT THE MOMENT STILL AT ITS INCEPTION, BUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS TO DEAL WITH THE COMPLEX OF PROBLEMS FACING IT, GIVES EVERY REASON FOR HAPPINESS.

IT MAY BE HOPED THAT THE PROMISE OF FREE GENERAL ELECTIONS WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS' TIME CAN BE FULFILLED AND WILL LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GENUINE DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL.

ONE OF THE CIEF PROBLEMS REQUIRING SOLUTION IS NO DOUBT THE STATUS OF THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES. THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT VOICES THE HOPE THAT THE NEW PORTUGUESE REGIME WILL TAKE AS ITS STARTING-POINT THE EXTERNAL RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF THESE TERRITORIES, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE.

IN THE EVENT OF A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT WITH REGARD TO BOTH THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS AND THE POSITION OF THE OVERSEAS TERRITORIES THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT FOR ITS PART IS WILLING TO PRINCIPLE TO INVESTIAGE, IF NECESSARY, POSSIBILITIES TO SUPPORT PORTUGAL, THINKING IN THE FIRST PLACE OF SUPPORT WITHIN THHHHE EEC FRAMEWORK. END TEXT.

4. COMMENT: MFA STATEMENT CAME AT SAME TIME MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS VAN DER STOEL CABLED MINISTER SOARES HIS CONGRATULATIONS AND NOTED THAT SOARES' APPOINTMENT "HERALDS A NEW PHASE IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NETHERLANDS AND PORTUGAL." THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO ANNOUNCED VAN DER STOEL PLANS TO VISIT PORTUGAL AT AN EARLY DATE.
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